

W₂ASACT Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2008
Department of Environmental Quality
1520 East Sixth Avenue
Director's Conference Room – Room 111
Hosted by – DEQ
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT INCLUDED

Todd Teegarden	DEQ/SRF	Carolyn Jones	MDOC/CDBG
Paul LaVigne	DEQ/SRF	Jennifer Olson	MDOC/CDBG
Nancy Geary	DEQ/SRF	Lorie Palm	MDOC/CEIC
Bob Fischer	DNRC	Pam Harris	MDOC/CEIC
Rick Duncan	DNRC	Ellen Hanpa	MDOC/Coal Board
Jay Sinnott	EPA	Heather Sobrepeña-George	MDOC/ICED
Larry Gallagher	HUD-Helena Field Office	Jim Edgcomb	MDOC/TSEP
Pam Higgins	MAP	Kim Hayes	MDOC/TSEP
Gus Byrom	MDOC/CDBG	Nick Clos	MRWS
Frank Kromkowski	MDOC/CDBG	Steve Troendle	USDA/RD
Debra Demarais	MDOC/TSEP	Larry Kindness	AWWWA – Crow Tribe
		Frances Pretty Paint	Crow Tribe - Contracts

CALL TO ORDER, SIGN-IN SHEET, AGENDA CHANGES

The scheduled meeting of the Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team (W₂ASACT) was called to order at 1:00 p.m., August 12, 2008, by Todd Teegarden, Chair. A sign-in sheet, agendas and minutes of the last meeting were made available to those in attendance. Jim Edgcomb moved to approve the minutes; Gus Byrom seconded the motion; the minutes were approved and adopted. There were no changes made to the agenda.

Each of the attendants introduced themselves.

GUEST SPEAKER - Lorie Palm, GIS coordinator for the Department of Commerce, Census and Economic Information Center – Lorie gave an overview with handouts of the Participant Statistical Areas Program (*PSAP*). This program, which is coming soon and available on the internet, will give people a chance to review, update, and delineate Census Tracts (made up of BGs), Block Groups-*BGs* (made up of Census Blocks, which are the smallest geographical unit used for publishing statistics), Census Designated Places-*CDPs* (single, distinct communities) and Census County Divisions-*CCDs* (made up of tracts). People interested in this program should contact the county of the CDPs. Lorie said participation is growing, and invited anyone who was interested to contact her for help. She handed out business cards for this purpose.

ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Updates from subcommittees:

Workshops – Bob Fischer said there will be no fall workshops.

Uniform Application – Jim Edgcomb had nothing new to report. There have been lots of applications submitted for the funding agencies. Paul LaVigne suggested when updates are made, one of the requirements be that PERs use double sided print to minimize the size of the reports and thus minimize the resource use.

Standard Documents – Bob Fischer had no updates, but keep on the list in the future.

Internet Website – Pam Smith did not attend.

Summer Picnic – Bob Fischer invited everyone to attend the picnic at Clarks Bay on Hauser Lake following the meeting. He collected names of those wanting to attend and money to pay for the food to be supplied.

Updates on Ongoing Topics

Emergency Projects – Bob Fischer – An irrigation system in the Bitterroot River drainage had one of their canals washed out this summer. They may request some funding to reimburse for ditch lining and dike repairs.

Tribal Issues – Jim Edgcomb / Larry Gallagher and others:

Blackfeet Project – The second phase of the treatment plant is about 80% complete. There is a question whether there is enough funding to finish that phase of the project. There is still funding for the third phase, running a pipeline to Browning.

Crow Interceptor –nearly complete. Larry Kindness explained it has taken since about 2001 to get the project funding together and the work underway, but much progress has been made. The existing lagoon has been replaced and the new lagoon (Phase II) is soon to be on line. An application for Phase III, more lateral work, has been submitted.

Regional Water Projects – Rick Duncan – Rick reported on the following:

Fort Peck - Dry Prairie

The Fort Peck Tribes' contractor (Apollo Construction) continues work on the clear wells and washwater recovery basin for the Regional water treatment plant (WTP). The scheduled completion is by the end of 2008. Dry Prairie's plans in southern Valley County are still on hold, pending completion of water flow tests conducted by HDR's Billings office in late July. Although Dry Prairie had negotiated with Boeing/MARCo for a water purchase agreement to buy in excess of 400,000 gallon per day from the existing water treatment plant (WTP) at St. Marie, that request was recently scaled back to 200,000 gpd. The plan is still to provide water to the Town of Nashua, as well as a number of rural users in Valley County. A recent (July 13, 2008) short article in the Great Falls Tribune indicates that the Glasgow City Council is planning to set aside money to repair/replace the raw water pipeline from Fort Peck Lake. It is estimated that about \$288,000 can be set aside annually, to apply to a project estimated to cost over \$6 million.

Dry Prairie's plans for other projects continue to move forward, including:
Sole-source contract with Tonka for an upgrade of the Culbertson WTP by means of installation of a 3rd filter bay. Service to Basin Electric electrical generating plant NE of Culbertson, via a project segment now referred to as the McCabe loop. Installation of a main from Culbertson west to Big Muddy Creek (Reservation boundary), from which point the Fort Peck Tribes will provide water to the community of Fort Kipp.

Rocky Boy's – North Central

The Authority is moving into advanced planning stages of the project to bring water to North Havre County Water District (NHCWD) with interim supply from the City of

Havre as the interim source. NHCWD is currently under an Administrative Order from DEQ for deficiencies in operation of the District's existing water treatment plant. The Chippewa-Cree Tribe has plans under review for using additional capacity from the new reverse osmosis (RO) plant near the Northern Winz Casino north of Box Elder to supply supplemental water to users in Box Elder, housing projects in what is known as the Laredo Triangle area of the Reservation, and eventually to the community of Big Sandy. Currently, that pipeline project is estimated at ~\$6 million.

The Musselshell-Judith Rural Water Supply

There is nothing to report on this system, at this time. The monthly authority board meeting is scheduled to take place tomorrow afternoon in Broadview.

Dry-Redwater

Golder & Associates of Denver has begun work on the baseline environmental study for the proposed pipeline route from the site of the Water Treatment Plant to the Town of Circle.

The Authority's bill for Federal authorization of a regional water system was introduced in Congress by Sen. Max Baucus in late July. Assigned to Energy & Water.

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WASACT Project Tracking Sheet – Jim Edgcomb said he would like to do updates twice a year, in October and April. He needs the information at least one week in advance of a meeting to have the sheet updated. He would like people who make changes to check after the updates are made, to make sure they are correct.

Army Corps of Engineers – Sect. 595 Program & Projects – Todd Teegarden handed out the July, 2008, list of 595 projects funded.

STAG project updates – Todd Teegarden and Jay Sinnott – Jay reported they have commented on EA's for both the Crow Agency and Conrad wastewater projects. Todd mentioned Lockwood's STAG must be used or it will be reallocated. Lockwood plans on a bond election to take place on September 5th.

Program / Project Updates:

Jim Edgcomb (TSEP) Applications are being evaluating and will be scored, beginning in September.

Gus Byrom (CDBG) Grant awards are being reviewed, in coordination with TSEP, and will likely be announced in October. A list of applications was handed out. Ellen Hanpa has accepted a position as the CDBG Director for the Coal Board, Hard Rock, and TSEP. Her vacant position has been advertised.

Ellen Hanpa (Coal Board) The Coal Board has about \$327,000 left for this year. They have about \$430,000 in applications for the end of September.

Caroline Jones (CDBG) Economic Development, CDBG, has about \$1.1 million available for regular economic development projects and \$125,000 left for other projects.

Heather Sobrepeña-George (ICED) Economic Development Applications for FY09 are being received. One successful application is about ready to go for review.

The Tribal Contacts list needs to be periodically updated. The invitation to attend future W₂ASACT meetings that Todd Teegarden originally mailed out will be sent to any new contacts.

Steve Troendle (RD) They had a successful year with steady staffing. Under new regulations, any money obligated more than 60 months will be cancelled. For community facilities, there have been four projects to date. Some of the money available has been returned because it was not used. Currently, there is a hospital remodeling project with \$19.7 million in funding needed

Larry Gallagher (HUD) HUD is advertising for people to work in the insured mortgage program. HUD has resources available and encourages the use of energy retrofits for both individual homes and rental properties.

Gus Byrom (CDBG) Gus is waiting for HUD to give instruction to the State on how CDBG money is to be allocated.

Rick Duncan (DNRC) Rick is working with the City of Poplar and the Fort Peck Tribes on a redevelopment plan for the City of Poplar water issue. Also, he will be meeting with Browning and the Blackfoot Tribe on August 28th regarding their water and wastewater problems. If anyone has any issues to address, please let him know.

Larry Kindness (Crow Tribe) Larry does not work for the Tribe. He works for Little Big Horn College as a construction liaison. There he works with lab technicians doing water quality testing. Because this lab is not certified, there is a problem using the results in PERs. The Tribe would like to find a way to make his work usable.

Paul LaVigne (SRF) Due to new federal DBE requirements, each bidder on SRF or STAG projects must now have all DBE's documented at the time of bid opening for a project. This means there will be more SRF staff in attendance at pre-bid conferences and more education of consulting engineers regarding this new requirement. 2009 Priority Lists are now final and available on the DEQ website.

Pam Higgins (MAP) There will be training sessions in Billings, Bozeman, etc. For information, go to the MAP website, www.map-inc.org. If the website is still not updated, call Lee Michalsky at 406-252-2858. Pam handed out a copy of the newest SOURCE publication. If anyone would like to be put on the SOURCE mailing list, please get in touch with her. (phiggins@map-inc.org or call 406-538-5173)

Nick Clos (MRWS) The annual NRWA conference will be held in Reno in October. See the NRWA.org home page for information and registration.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

The next meeting was scheduled for October 14, 2008 at DNRC Bannock Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:10 p.m.